CLAIMS:

1. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using curable ink, the method comprising

depositing a first pass of ink on the area;

partially curing ink deposited in the first pass;

depositing a second pass of ink on the area; and

fully curing the ink on the area.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the partial curing step is such that an exposed surface of the partially cured ink is in non-solidified form.

3. A method according to Claim 2, wherein the partial curing step is such that an exposed surface of the partially cured ink is in substantially liquid or gel form.

4. A method according to Claim 2 or 3, wherein the exposed surface of the partially cured ink is prevented from solidifying by oxygen inhibition.

5. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the partial curing step effects at least partial curing of the ink adjacent the substrate.

6. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the partial curing step effects at least partial curing of the ink such that the partially cured ink is stable after a period of minutes.

7. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the partial curing step produces a fixed level of gloss of the ink on the area.

8. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the partial curing step controls the level of gloss of the ink on the area.

9. A method according to any of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the step of partially curing the ink is effected by a first device, and the step of fully curing the ink

is effected by a second device, wherein the location of the first device is not proximate to the location of the second device.

10. A method according to any of Claims 1 to 8 wherein the step of partially curing the ink is effected by a first device and the step of fully curing the ink is effected by a second device wherein the location of the first device is separate from the location of the second device.

11. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the partial curing step includes a further step of varying the level of partial cure depending on the rate of printing.

12. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein the ink comprises radiation curable ink, preferably UV curable ink.

13. A method according to Claim 11 or Claim 12 wherein the dose of curing radiation applied to a region of ink in the partial curing step is varied so as to vary the level of gloss of the printed ink on the area.

14. A method according to any of Claims 11 to 13 wherein the wavelength of the radiation used in the partial curing step is greater than about 370 nm, preferably approximately between 380 nm and 420 nm, and more preferably approximately between 385 nm and 400 nm.

15. A method according to any of Claims 11 to 14 wherein the fully curing step comprises providing an inerting or low oxygen environment.

16. A method according to any of Claims 11 to 15 wherein the radiation used in the full curing step includes radiation having a wavelength less than the wavelength used in the partial curing step.

17. A method according to any of Claims 11 to 16 wherein the radiation used in the full curing step includes radiation having a wavelength less than about 360

nm, preferably approximately between 300 nm and 350 nm, and more preferably approximately between 320 nm and 340 nm.

18. A method according to any of Claims 11 to 17 wherein the radiation used in the full curing step includes radiation having a wavelength greater than about 370 nm, preferably approximately between 380 nm and 420 nm, and more preferably approximately between 385 nm and 400 nm.

19. A method according to any of the preceding claims, further including the step of partially curing ink deposited in the second pass.

20. A method according to any of the preceding claims, further including the step of depositing at least one further pass of ink and partially curing the deposited ink.

21. A method according to any of the preceding claims wherein an exposed surface of the ink is not solidified in the partial curing step.

22. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing on an area of a substrate using solidifiable ink, the method comprising

depositing a first pass of ink on the area;

partially solidifying the ink such that an exposed surface of the ink is not solidified in the partial solidifying step.

23. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using ink, comprising the step of depositing a first pass of ink on the area, wherein the method includes the step of reducing the viscosity of the ink prior to deposition on the substrate.

24. A method according to any of the preceding claims, including the step of heating the ink before depositing the ink on the substrate.

25. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the partially cured or partially solidified ink is such that at least a part of the ink can be displaced by rubbing.

26. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing on an area of a substrate using ink, the method comprising

depositing a first pass of ink on the area; and

partially solidifying/curing the ink such that the partially cured or partially solidified ink is such that at least a part of the ink can be displaced by rubbing.

27. A method according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising the step of depositing a second pass of ink on the area.

28. A method according to Claim 27, wherein the first pass of ink is such that it is substantially wetted by ink of the second pass.

29. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using ink, the method comprising

depositing a first pass of ink on the area; and

substantially immobilising the ink on the area,

wherein the immobilised ink is such that it is substantially wettable by ink of a subsequent pass.

30. A method according to any of the preceding claims, further including the step of fully curing or solidifying the ink on the area.

31. A method, for use with an inkjet device, of printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using curable ink, the method comprising

depositing ink on the area; and

at least partially curing the deposited ink.

32. A method according to any of the preceding claims, wherein the ink is deposited using an inkjet device.

33. A method according to any of the preceding claims, further comprising

emitting the ink using a printer carriage having one or more printheads;

at least partially curing the emitted ink using a first radiation source; and

substantially fully curing the ink using a second radiation source,

wherein the first radiation source for partially curing the ink is arranged to move with the one or more printheads, and the second radiation source for substantially fully curing the ink is arranged such that the one or more printheads can move relative to such radiation source.

34. A method according to Claim 33, further comprising

providing a beam movable with respect to the area of the substrate; and

providing a printer carriage adapted to move along the beam as well as with the beam,

wherein the radiation source for fully curing the ink is adapted to move only with the beam.

35. A method according to Claim 33, further comprising

providing a beam movable with respect to the area of the substrate; and

providing a printer carriage adapted to move along the beam as well as with the beam,

wherein the radiation source for fully curing the ink and the beam are adapted to be relatively moveable.

36. A method according to any of the preceding claims further comprising emitting radiation from a light emitting diode (LED) towards the ink.

37. A printer adapted to print an area by a method according to any of the preceding claims.

38. Apparatus for an inkjet device, for use in printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using curable ink, comprising:

a printhead arranged to deposit a first pass of ink on the area;

means for partially curing the ink deposited on the area;

a printhead arranged to deposit a second pass of ink on the area; and

means for fully curing the ink on the area.

39. Apparatus according to Claim 38, wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to partially cure the ink such that an exposed surface of the partially cured ink is in non-solidified form.

40. Apparatus according to Claim 39, wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to partially cure the ink such that an exposed surface of the partially cured ink is in substantially liquid or gel form.

41. Apparatus according to Claim 39 or 40, wherein the exposed surface of the partially cured ink is prevented from solidifying by oxygen inhibition.

42. Apparatus according any of Claims 39 to 41, wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to at least partially cure the ink adjacent the substrate.

43. Apparatus according to any of Claims 39 to 42 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to cure the printed ink such that it is stable after a period of minutes.

44. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 43 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to produce a fixed level of gloss of the ink on the area.

45. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 44 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to control the level of gloss of the ink on the area.

46. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 45 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is not proximate to the means for fully curing the ink.

47. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 46 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is separate from the means for fully curing the ink.

48. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 47 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to vary the level of the partial cure depending on the rate of printing.

49. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 48 wherein the ink comprises radiation curable ink, preferably UV curable ink.

50. Apparatus according to Claim 49 further comprising means for varying the radiation output of the radiation source so as to vary the level of gloss on the printed ink on the area.

51. Apparatus according to Claim 49 or 50 wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to produce radiation having a wavelength greater than about 370 nm, preferably approximately between 380 nm and 420 nm, and more preferably approximately between 385 nm and 400 nm.

52. Apparatus according to any of Claims 49 to 51 wherein the means for fully curing the ink is adapted to providing an inerting or low oxygen environment.

53. Apparatus according to any of Claims 49 to 52 wherein the means for fully curing the ink is adapted to produce radiation having a wavelength less than that produced by the means for partially curing the ink.

54. Apparatus according to any of Claims 49 to 53 wherein the means for fully curing the ink is adapted to produce radiation having a wavelength less than about 360 nm, preferably approximately between 300 nm and 350 nm, and more preferably approximately between 320 nm and 340 nm.

55. Apparatus according to any of Claims 49 to 54 wherein the means for fully curing the ink is adapted to produce radiation having a wavelength greater than about 370 nm, preferably approximately between 380 nm and 420 nm, and more preferably approximately between 385 nm and 400 nm.

56. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 55, further including means for partially curing ink deposited in the second pass.

57. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 56, further including means for depositing at least one further pass of ink and means for partially curing the deposited ink.

58. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 57 wherein means for partially curing the ink is adapted to cure the ink such that an exposed surface of the ink is not solidified.

59. Apparatus for an inkjet device, for printing on an area of a substrate using solidifiable ink, the apparatus comprising

a printhead arranged to deposit a first pass of ink on the area;

means for partially solidifying the ink such that an exposed surface of the ink is not solidified in the partial solidifying step.

60. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 59, including means for heating the ink before depositing the ink on the substrate.

61. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 60, including means for reducing the viscosity of the ink prior to deposition on the substrate.

62. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 61, wherein the means for partially curing the ink is adapted to partially cure or partially solidify the ink such that at least a part of the ink can be displaced by rubbing.

63. Apparatus for an inkjet device, for printing on an area of a substrate using ink, the apparatus comprising:

a printhead for depositing a first pass of ink on the area; and

means for partially solidifying/curing the ink such that the partially cured or partially solidified ink is such that at least a part of the ink can be displaced by rubbing.

64. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 63, further adapted to deposit a second pass of ink on the area.

65. Apparatus for an inkjet device, for printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using ink comprising:

a printhead for depositing a first pass of ink on the area; and

means for substantially immobilising the ink on the area,

wherein the immobilised ink is such that it is substantially wetted by ink of a subsequent pass.

66. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 65, including a radiation source for substantially fully curing or solidifying the ink on the area.

67. Apparatus, for an inkjet device, for printing an area of a substrate in a plurality of passes using curable ink, the apparatus comprising:

means for depositing ink on the area; and

means for at least partially curing the deposited ink.

68. Apparatus according to any of Claims 38 to 67, further comprising a light emitting diode (LED) adapted to emit radiation towards the ink.

69. A printer carriage for an inkjet device, the printer carriage comprising one or more printheads and a radiation source for at least partially curing ink emitted by the one or more printheads.

70. A printer carriage according to Claim 69, the carriage further including a radiation source for substantially fully curing the ink.

71. A printer carriage according to Claim 69, the carriage omitting a radiation source for fully curing the ink.

72. A printer carriage for an inkjet device, the printer carriage comprising one or more printheads, a radiation source for partially curing ink emitted by the printheads, and a radiation source for substantially fully curing the ink.

73. A printer carriage according to Claim 72, wherein the radiation source is arranged to fully cure the ink on an area of a printed substrate only after substantially all of the ink has been deposited onto that area.

74. An ink jet carriage incorporating apparatus as claimed in any of Claims 38 to 68.

75. An inkjet device incorporating an ink jet carriage according to Claim 74.

76. An inkjet device, for printing on an area of a substrate using ink, comprising

a printer carriage having one or more printheads and a radiation source for at least partially curing ink emitted by one or more printheads; and

a radiation source for substantially fully curing the ink,

wherein the radiation source for partially curing the ink is arranged to move with the one or more printheads, and the radiation source for substantially fully curing the ink is arranged such that the one or more printheads can move relative to such radiation source.

77. An inkjet device according to Claim 76 further comprising

a beam movable with respect to the area of the substrate and a printer carriage adapted to move along the beam as well as with the beam,

wherein the radiation source for fully curing the ink is adapted to move only with the beam.

78. An inkjet device according to Claim 76 further comprising

a beam movable with respect to the area of the substrate and a printer carriage adapted to move along the beam as well as with the beam,

wherein the radiation source for fully curing the ink and the beam are adapted to be relatively moveable.

79. A method being substantially as herein described having reference to the accompanying drawings.

80. Apparatus being substantially as herein described having reference and as shown in one or more of the accompanying drawings.